

**WILLIAMSBURG CITY COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 8, 2004**

The Williamsburg City Council held a work session on November 8, 2004, 2:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Stryker Building.

**ATTENDANCE**

Present were Ms. Zeidler, Messrs. Haulman, Scruggs, Chohany and Freiling. Also present were City Manager Tuttle, City Attorney Phillips, and City Clerk Crist.

Staff Attending: Department Heads Nester, Serra, and Assistant City Manager Miller.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Zeidler called the meeting to order.

**OPEN FORUM**

Mayor Zeidler opened the comment session.

**Mr. George Greenia, 636 Counselors Way**, addressed Council regarding adding a "Sexual Orientation" to the City's standard non-discrimination policy to state: "The City of Williamsburg does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, sexual orientation or disability in employment or the provision of services." Mr. Greenia briefly reviewed the information provided to Council (see attached) regarding the localities, cities, states, colleges and universities, and employers that have non-discrimination policies that include sexual orientation. He added that to include this language to the policy would not increase costs, affect benefits, or affect hiring guidelines.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Mr. Greenia for his remarks, and asked Mr. Phillips and Mr. Tuttle to provide Council with a recommendation about this process at a future meeting.

No one else wished to speak. The session was closed.

**BACKGROUND PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION**

**Charter Universities Initiative—Briefing by Sam Jones, VP for Finance, College of William and Mary**

Council members received information in their Council packets regarding the Chartered Universities Initiative. The charter proposal will enable the College of William and Mary, and other institutions that may wish to participate, to utilize their revenue capacity and asset base to produce more non-tax payer funds to enhance the educational experience of all students.

Mayor Zeidler said that the city's draft Legislative Agenda included support of the Initiative and that Council desired to have a better understanding of the initiative before moving forward. She introduced Mr. Sam Jones, Vice-President for Finance at the College of William and Mary. Mr. Jones presented a summary of information regarding the complicated initiative using overhead transparencies. Mr. Jones said the Initiative will redefine the college's relationship with the Commonwealth, return authority to the Board of Visitors, improve long term planning and execution of plans, establish a more stable

funding model, provide flexibility in operations, and focus on post-audit oversight and accountability. He continued to review graphs depicting the decline of state support for the College, especially during a recession, and the effect on college operations. Mr. Jones reviewed the key elements of the Charter Agreement (see attached). He said that more information is available on the College website.

Council and Mr. Jones discussed finances and staff salaries, the effects on the cost of tuition, and controlling the growth of the student body. Mr. Jones confirmed that the initiative will not change the relationship between the city and college. Mr. Haulman hoped that people in the community would educate themselves about this matter and its benefits, and then communicate with the General Assembly. Mr. Jones said that Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia have partnered with William and Mary, participated in joint meetings, and are committed to this with the same objectives.

**Ms. Miller, Assistant City Manager**, informed Council that she had contacted the cities of Blacksburg and Charlottesville, but neither locality has been approached about supporting the initiative.

Mr. Scruggs was concerned about the effects on the community.

Mr. Freiling commented that the college enhances the City of Williamsburg. He inquired what was holding up progress on the college parking deck. Mr. Jones said that currently there is a matter of interpretation of the American with Disabilities Act regarding location of parking spaces. It takes a long time to get state projects reviewed. Mr. Jones said that communication with the community is important and that long term plans need to be shared with the city. He confirmed that the college will not support plans for off-campus housing.

Mayor Zeidler and Council members thanked Mr. Jones for coming.

**November Regular City Council Meeting:** Mayor Zeidler reminded everyone that Council will meet on Friday, November 12, instead of Thursday because of the Veterans Day holiday.

**Preview of City Council Meeting: November 12, 2004**

**Goals and Initiatives:** Mr. Freiling suggested the following language be added to Character of the City before final review on November 12:

“Review the language associated with the City's Architectural Review Guidelines and, if appropriate upon completion of the comprehensive plan review, modify it in order to better reflect Council's desired outcome for architectural preservation as it relates to redevelopment of properties within the City. Particular attention should be given to restrictions on demolition as a potential obstacle to redevelopment.”

Ms. Crist will e-mail the language to Council members for their consideration.

Mr. Chohany suggested that Council consider adding the Berkeley Lane Sewer Extension project under Environmental Services.

### **City Council Communications**

Crossroads Meeting: Mayor Zeidler reported that she attended the meeting and that President Sullivan's remarks addressed many issues such as parking, student housing, and the conditions of the white houses on Jamestown Road.

She noted that Mr. Tuttle made a presentation on the redevelopment of the Richmond Road Corridor and explained the project very well. The people attending appreciated his comments.

Neighborhood Council Meeting: Mayor Zeidler reported that John Catlett addressed the Council regarding the Rental Inspection Program. It was a good and helpful presentation.

Regional Issues Committee Meeting: Mr. Freiling reported that the Committee addressed bringing together the timelines for the York County, James City County, and Williamsburg Comprehensive Plans.

### **Schedule of Meetings**

Council members received a copy of the meeting calendar for November.

Veterans Day Ceremony: Mr. Tuttle said the ceremony will be held at the Community Building on Thursday, November 11, at 10:00 a.m.

### **City Council Meeting Time**

Reference for this item was Ms. Crist's report dated November 3, 2004. Mayor Zeidler said that she was approached by some people who worked during the day and could not attend daytime Council meetings, specifically from members of the Virginia Organizing Project. Council last tried holding night meetings in 1995 for a six month trial period, but there was no change in attendance. Other Council members had not received any comments about Council meeting times. Council agreed that they would like to hear from citizens, and proposed that questions regarding attendance at Council meetings be included on the annual Citizens Survey. Mr. Freiling cautioned that the questions should be carefully worded to get the appropriate feedback from citizens.

### **OPEN FORUM**

Mayor Zeidler opened the comment session.

**Mr. David Kranbuehl, 201 Harrison Avenue**, addressed Council about Owner Occupancy. He appreciated meeting with Mr. Haulman and Mr. Sam Sadler at the College. He suggested that if Council decided to meet in the evening that the information be placed in the city's newsletter. During a lengthy presentation, Mr. Kranbuehl spoke about the importance of the character of the city, especially the Historic Area, the importance of city residents/owner occupied housing to economic vitality, and needing a timetable for and plan for owner occupancy. Owner occupancy is more important than other projects in the city. Recommendations and a plan need to come from Council.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Mr. Kranbuehl for his comments.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Haulman Moved that City Council go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussing one personnel matter per subparagraph one, concerning appointments to board and commissions. The Motion Was Seconded by Mr. Freiling.

Recorded Vote on the Motion:

Aye: Freiling, Scruggs, Zeidler, Haulman, Chohany

No: None

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

The Mayor called a five-minute recess.

At 3:32 p.m. Council met in Open Session.

Mr. Haulman Moved the Certification of Closed Meeting. The Motion was Seconded by Mr. Chohany.

Recorded Vote on the Motion:

Aye: Freiling, Scruggs, Zeidler, Haulman, Chohany

No: None

**CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING**

Date: November 8, 2004

Motion: Mr. Haulman; Second: Mr. Freiling

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Williamsburg has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the City Council that such meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Williamsburg hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered by the City of Williamsburg.

VOTE:

Aye: Freiling, Scruggs, Zeidler, Haulman, Chohany

No: None

Absent During Vote: None

Absent During Meeting: None

Council members briefly discussed the possibility of reviewing reappointments to boards and commissions.

Council and Mr. Tuttle discussed the work that the city is doing on a policy concerning owner-occupied housing. Mr. Tuttle said that a complete proposal needs to be brought before City Council. Council members asked Mr. Phillips and Mr. Tuttle to report back to Council about the realistic staff and legal perspectives. Mr. Phillips added that City Council needs to decide at budget time how much money they are willing to put into this initiative.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Approved: December 9, 2004

Jeanne Zeidler, Mayor

Shelia Y. Crist  
Clerk of Council